

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00382 311231Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 /036 W

-----100074 311249Z /46

P 311051Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6413

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

INFO USS DAVIS PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 0382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, SU, US

U.S. NAVAL SHIP FUEL STOPS AT PORT SUDAN

REF: COMIDEASTFOR 292024Z JAN 78 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL WHICH WAS NOT RPT NOT SENT DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED CURRENT NEED TO RELY ON RED SEA LITTORAL PORTS FOR FUELING MIDEASTFOR SHIPS, PARTICULARLY SINCE USE OF DJIBOUTI HAS REACHED SATURATION POINT. COMIDEASTFOR, IN ADDITION TO INDICATING ANTICIPATED HEAVIER FUTURE DEMAND FOR SUCH USE OF PORT SUDAN, HAS EXPRESSED SPECIFIC REQUEST TO HAVE USS DAVIS MAKE FUEL STOP THERE FEBRUARY 8. THIS WOULD ALSO ENTAIL IMPORTANT PERSONNEL TRANSFER AND SMALL SUPPLY TRANSFER WHICH WOULD INVOLVE MIDEASTFOR C-131 AIRCRAFT LANDING AT PORT SUDAN.

2. FOR COMIDEASTFOR: EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO USS DAVIS FUEL STOP AND RELATED PERSONNEL AND SUPPLY TRANSFERS REQUESTED REFTEL. HOWEVER, WE SHALL HAVE TO OBTAIN APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCES AND THEREFORE NEED SOONEST INFO RE MIDEASTFOR AIRCRAFT AND AS MUCH OTHER DETAILED INFO AS POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE REQUEST. FYI: WILL BE NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN TO SUDANGOV OVERALL SITUATION WHICH NECESSITATES INCREASED USE OF PORT SUDAN. END FYI. AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE SUFFICIENT FUEL AVAILABLE IN PORT SUDAN, BUT WE CHECKING TO MAKE SURE. WE ALSO

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CHECKING RE PIER SPACE AND OTHER LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO OBJECTION, IN GENERAL, TO INCREASED USE OF PORT SUDAN BY MIDEASTFOR VESSELS FOR PURPOSES AND REASONS EXPLAINED REFTEL, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE SO THAT DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCES, WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED EACH TIME, CAN BE OBTAINED. MOREOVER, DUE TO STAFF AND OTHER LIMITATIONS, NEITHER EMBASSY NOR USDAO KHARTOUM WILL BE ABLE TO SEND REPS TO

PORt SUDAN TO ASSIST.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT: COMIDEASTFOR REQUEST RAISES POLITICAL QUESTIONS AS WELL THAT WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN WASHINGTON. NOTING FAST MOVING SITUATION IN HORN, REFTEL SUGGESTS INCREASED TRAFFIC BY U.S. NAVAL SHIPS IN RED SEA/GULF OF ADEN AREA, PRESUMABLY TO MONITOR SITUATION, HOWEVER, JUST BECAUSE SITUATION IN REGION IS SO VOLATILE, I THINK DEPARTMENT SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER ALL POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS. SUDANGOV CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE FULLY COOPERATIVE REGARDING MIDEASTFOR FUEL STOPS. HOWEVER, I FEAR EITHER THEY OR OTHERS MAY MISINTERPRET USG POLICIES IF U.S. NAVAL TRAFFIC IN AREA BECOMES TOO HEAVY AND OUR SHIPS ARE AT PORT SUDAN TOO OFTEN. REFTEL INDICATES MIDEASTFOR SHIPS MIGHT BE IN PORT SUDAN AS OFTEN AS ONCE PER WEEK. (COMIDEASTFOR PLEASE CLARIFY.). AT TIME WHEN PRESS AND OTHERS ARE HINTING THAT U.S. SUPPLYING SOMALIA WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT VIA SUDAN, I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INPUT INTO COMID-EASTFOR'S REQUEST. BERGUS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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